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INTERVIEW

TO

THE REPRESENTATIVES OF
THE HONG KONG'S NEWSPAPERS
WEN WEI PO AND TA KUN PAO

PHNOM PENH SEPTEMBER 1978



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POL POT

Secretary of the Central Committee of
the Communist Party of Kampuchea
Prime Minister of the Government of
Democratic Kampuchea

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THE HONG KONG'S NEWSPAPERS
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Phnom Penh, September 21, 1978

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Department of Press and Information
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Democratic Kampuchea

First question: Respected His Excellency Prime Minister Pol Pot, since the end of 1977 the world mass media have often mentioned the war at the Kampuchea-Vietnam border. The world opinion is concerned by this event. Why the war has broken out? What is the concrete situation?

Answer: During your visit to Democratic Kampuchea, you have been aware of that our people are struggling in order to increase production and improve their standard of living. You have been to the front and you have been the eyewitnesses of our people's struggle in order to defend their sacred territory against Vietnam aggressor, annexationist, swallower of territories. So, you are aware of the present situation which prevails in Democratic Kampuchea.

I take this opportunity of our meeting today to give you some complementary informa-

tions about the situation in Democratic Kampuchea.

We have waged successive revolutionary struggles in order to liberate our nation and people from slavery and to live in independence in our territory. Therefore, we have stipulated in our Constitution that Kampuchea is independent, sovereign, neutral, peaceful and non-aligned so that our people could live in peace and devote themselves to the construction of the country in full independence and sovereignty.

Therefore, immediately after liberation, we have undertaken to rebuild economy, construct the country and solve the food problem by abiding by the position of independence, sovereignty and self-reliance.

Besides, we have paid visits to neighbouring countries in order to establish friendly relations with them. So, in June 1975, a high

ranking delegation of the Communist Party of Kampuchea went to Hanoi. In October 1975, we went to Laos and to Thailand. All this in order to have friendship relations and peacefully coexist with the neighbouring countries.

But we have encountered obstacles due to the hostility of a neighbouring country which has rejected the Democratic Kampuchea's goodwill. This country has obstinately aggressed Democratic Kampuchea. It is Vietnam which has since a long time the strategy of taking possession of Kampuchea and integrating her into Vietnam through its policy of "Indochina Federation".

Immediately after Kampuchea's liberation, Vietnam aggressed and occupied the Kampuchea's Koh Way islands. It has unceasingly carried out provocations along the land border in order to attempt to bring us to terms. But we have not submitted for we want to be independent. Therefore, being mad of rage, Vietnam has launched

large - scale attacks against us at the end of 1977. The Vietnamese aggressors, the Soviet expansionists and their followers have formed a coalition to attack us. They wanted to take possession of Kampuchea at one go according to their strategy "lightning attack, lightning victory". They thought that if this strategy succeeded, they would solved all military and political problems, at home as well as abroad, and they would grasped the Kampuchea's people.

They have united because on one hand, for a long time, the Vietnamese have wanted to take possession of Kampuchea and integrate her into their territory according to their policy "only one country, one people, under the leadership of only one party". On the other hand Vietnam wants to be a big power in "Indochina" and then carry on its expansion over Southeast Asia.

As for the Soviet expansionists, they ha-

ve their global strategy which also includes the control of Southeast Asia. At this end, they have to solve the problem of Kampuchea which is the main obstacle for the Vietnamese and for themselves.

Thus, they united to attack Kampuchea. They planned to take possession of Kampuchea at one go. At this end, they launched important forces composed of 14 divisions, including 5 shock divisions. They used a great number of armoured cars, including Soviet armoured cars, and a great number of heavy artillery pieces. But we have immediately smashed these attacks.

In Eastern region, they entered 30 kilometers deep into our territory. Along the road n°7, they went into up to East of Suong-city. In the Southwestern region, they penetrated along the road n°2 from Phnom Den to Takeo up to about 25 kilometers far from the border. We

stopped their advance. We cut their forces into many pieces and then, we annihilated them one by one. In some places, we annihilated entire regiments. Being cut into pieces, their forces could not resist and were routed on January 6, 1978. Soviet advisers and technicians have participated in these fightings in quality of commanders and armoured car drivers. Our Army killed two of them in an armoured car.

So, on January 6, 1978, we defeated the Vietnamese strategy of "Indochina Federation". We annihilated the Vietnamese strategy "Only one people, one country, one party". We held aloft the banner of the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of our country.

However, since February up to now, the Vietnamese have carried on their aggression. But their forces are less than one half of the 14 divisions they launched against us at the end of 1977 and since February, they have suf-

fered heavy losses. At present, the Vietnamese face a lot of difficulties in all fields.

In the military field, they face great difficulties. Their forces which attack us along the border are less than 2 divisions. When we speak about divisions, we want to speak about divisions having their full effectives. Actually, the Vietnamese use many divisions which exist in name only. As they lack effectives, they have used planes. The use of planes means that their infantry has been crushed. From July to the beginning of this September, we have shot down 8 helicopters and fighter-bombers. Vietnam has just very few possibilities in using planes for it is not an industrial country: it is a backward agricultural country. Its forces cannot play a strategic role. The use of planes creates more political, economic and financial difficulties to it.

Our Army already faced the air bombing war of the US imperialists which lasted 200 days and 200 nights. The Vietnamese air forces do not represent one thousandth of the US air forces which attacked us in 1973.

Second question: Now, how does the situation of the war Kampuchea-Vietnam move? Can this war go on furthermore?

Answer: Nowadays, the situation in Vietnam is moving very rapidly, at home as well as abroad, since it has aggressed Kampuchea.

Before its aggression against Kampuchea, the true face of Vietnam had not been known. It was thought that it was socialist and revolutionary. Now, every body can see that

Vietnam has aggressed Kampuchea. It is not revolutionary nor socialist, nor a non-aligned country. Vietnam belongs to an alliance: it is a member of the Soviet economic alliance and adheres to the Soviet political bloc. It has established military bases in foreign country. During these 8 past months, that is since the beginning of its aggression against Kampuchea, Vietnam has been unmasked.

Furthermore, Vietnam faces extremely severe economic and financial difficulties. It is short of rice and food, and starvation is worsening.

In the political field, at home, Vietnam encounters difficulties. In many places, the Vietnamese people are uprising.

With all these difficulties, Vietnam has systematically provoked the People's Republic of China. By doing so, it has got into a

more inextricable mess.

So, Vietnam is in a difficult situation, both at home and abroad, in the military and political fields as well as in the economic, financial and food fields. This situation is due to the fact that it has failed in taking possession of Kampuchea. If it had succeeded in taking possession of Kampuchea, the situation would have been different and it would have been more pretentious and more arrogant.

Will Vietnam carry on its expansion to the South? Do Vietnam and the Soviets threaten to carry on their expansion over Southeast Asia? This problem is clear. It is what they do. They are threatening in the same way as the fascists and the imperialists in the past, who took advantage of their brutal forces. If they succeeded in controlling Southeast Asia, what changes would then be in the world? They would

use their ground and naval forces in order to carry on their expansion, control the Strait of Malacca and take possession of the economic wealth in Southeast Asia. The situation would be then very complicate !

Would they be able to extend their expansion and control Southeast Asia?

The problem is like this: If we do not fight against them, they will be able to take possession of Southeast Asia. But if we strongly fight against them, they will not be able to do so. We are convinced that the Southeast Asian countries and peoples as well as the world peoples will absolutely not allow the Vietnamese or the international expansionists to carry out expansionist manoeuvres aiming at taking possession of other's territories. But if Southeast Asia cannot defend itself and big countries intervene and help it, then how lar-

ge would be the scale of the war?

Today, I would like to underline, and you are perfectly aware of, the part of Democratic Kampuchea facing the attacks of Vietnam and the soviet expansionism, that is to say her part in the national defence and her part towards the general situation in Southeast Asia.

In this case, does the world want Kampuchea to be independent, sovereign in her territorial integrity or to be a Vietnamese puppet or a Vietnamese and Soviet base?

The Southeast Asian countries and many Asian countries have understood this problem and will furthermore understand it. And in the world, more and more countries have understood this problem. But there are also

countries which have not yet understood this problem. Among them, there are big countries which have strategic interests in using the Strait of Malacca and in Southeast Asia. It is the reason why they have not yet a correct political stand towards Democratic Kampuchea and they are not yet aware of the part of Democratic Kampuchea facing the Vietnamese and international expansionists aggression. However we think that they will progressively understand as the situation develops.

You know how to play chess. When the Vietnamese advance a pawn, they already foresee the second step they are going to play. Those who advance a pawn without foreseeing the next step are not able to know the second step of the Vietnamese. The Vietnamese carry on manoeuvres aiming at misleading the world public opi-

nion by openly attacking Kampuchea. Their diplomatic manoeuvres against Kampuchea aim also at serving their strategy of aggression against Kampuchea. And to attack Kampuchea is a part of their strategy of aggression against Southeast Asia. We want to tell you what would be the situation in Southeast Asia if the Vietnamese and the Soviet expansionists succeeded in taking possession of Kampuchea.

The Vietnamese carry out diplomatic activities in Southeast Asia aiming at serving this strategy. They strive to remedy their situation of defeat at the Kampuchea's front to gain time in order to isolate Kampuchea and prepare their forces for new attacks against Kampuchea. When Kampuchea is overthrown, they would continue to aggress other countries in Southeast Asia. But we consider that the Vietnamese will not succeed.

Vietnam and its followers will not be able to take possession of Kampuchea. We would like to state that if they continue to aggress us, they must be ready to wage the war during 100 years and even after 100 years, they will not be able to take possession of Kampuchea. On the contrary, they will only fall to ruin.

I say this not because I am angry and in a view of mind. We rely on our forces.

- Firstly, we have the Communist Party of Kampuchea whose leadership is firm.

- Secondly, the people are on our side. Our people are united with the Party. They are satisfied with the collectivist regime from which they enjoy all the benefits; especially the labourers who constitute more than 90 per cent of the whole people. The remaining 10 per cent are also with the revolution, they take part in it and are patriotic. Nobody wants

Vietnam swallows Kampuchea.

Thirdly, we have the valiant Revolutionary Army of Kampuchea.

Fourthly, in the economic field, we can provide our own needs. During the 5 year war against the US imperialists when the situation was difficult and complicate, we could supply our own needs and even give aids to Vietnam. So, at present, we have all conditions to fully provide our own needs in food.

Fifthly, we have a sound collectivist socialist regime laying on ever more solid basis.

As for Vietnam, its party is not a genuine marxist-leninist party, it is a thoroughly revisionist party which has betrayed the revolution. Its regime is not a genuine socialist regime: it is a disguised socialist regime which oppresses the people. The poor people

remain exploited. The Vietnamese State power is politically and economically corrupt and it oppresses and exploits the people. Then, the people do not support it. On the contrary, they oppose it. The Vietnamese army is not a real revolutionary army: it is a corrupt army which exploits and oppresses the people. The people do not support it. Therefore, it cannot enlist soldiers according to its objectives.

The economic and financial situation of Vietnam is really critical. Starvation has increased. This bad situation will go on worsening if Vietnam obstinately carries on its aggression against Kampuchea.

On the international arena, Vietnam is unmasked as the Kampuchea's aggressor, as an expansionist, a mercenary in the pay of the Soviet expansionists, a country belonging to

the Soviet bloc. So, it is more and more unmasked and isolated. It is more and more spurred by the peoples the world over who are clearly aware of that Vietnam aggresses Kampuchea and that Kampuchea defends her independence against Vietnam aggressor.

These are the reasons why we are convinced that we can successfully defend our country by ourselves. By defending our independence, we receive sympathy, support and encouragement from more and more friends in the world.

Third question: Recently, the world mass media have made remarks about some problems in Kampuchea. What is the opinion of the Kampuchea's Government?

Answer: The imperialists and international expansionists carry out propagandas in the world that Democratic Kampuchea State is contested by the people, there is insecurity everywhere in Kampuchea, the human rights are violated and the Democratic Kampuchea's Government has only a few members.

Any man in his senses can judge it.

Firstly, who opposes Kampuchea's revolution and Democratic Kampuchea? They are the imperialists, the reactionaries and the international expansionists who are in a rage because Democratic Kampuchea is independent and sovereign, they have lost all their military, political, economic and social interests and cannot interfere in the Democratic Kampuchea's internal affairs anymore. It is normal !

Secundly, you have gone and visited many provinces. Did you feel in insecurity? Did you see uprisings? You can give evidences.

Thirdly, you surely agree with us. Without the participation of its people, the Kampuchea's revolution would not have won. There would not have been April 17, 1975. Today, the Kampuchea's revolution has successfully defended the country and supplies its own needs in food in full independence, sovereignty and in relying on its own forces. If the whole people had not participated in the revolution, we would not have been able to successfully defend or build up the country and to supply our own needs, Vietnam would have taken possession of Kampuchea, there would have been starvation and Kampuchea would have been forced to beg for aids everywhere.

All this clearly shows that the Kampuchea's people carry out revolution and they are the master of Democratic Kampuchea.

On one hand, the whole people are for the revolution.

On the other hand, they are composed of two categories:

- the labourer people representing 90 per cent of the whole population, are satisfied with the collectivist regime which ensures them all their needs. In the past, they had nothing to eat, they were forced to sell their sons, daughters, wives or husbands and their conditions of living were miserable. Now, they eat their fill and defend themselves this collectivist regime.

- as for the remaining 10 per cent, their conditions of living are a little lower than in the past. However, they eat their fill and like everybody, they are provided with housing, clothes, and medical care.

The whole people have seen that this society is just, it is a society every body have wished to have for a long time. In the past everybody wanted to enjoy democratic freedoms.

These democratic freedoms were mentioned in the books, but in fact they exclusively belonged to the exploiting classes, who, under these freedoms, plundered and exploited the people in the military, political and economic fields and in the social and cultural fields. The 90 per cent of the people had nothing but the right to be exploited and oppressed.

Now they perfectly understand what are democratic freedoms and social justice for they are the masters of means of production, lands, animals and factories. They all have the right to study and the right to decide by themselves the destiny of the country. Thus, these democratic freedoms are genuine democratic freedoms.

That is the situation of the forces of our people.

So, by carrying on slanderous propagandas against Democratic Kampuchea, the enemy have taken their wishes for the realities. Actually, the Kampuchea's people stand on the side of the revolution and defend their collectivist regime.

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